

CLAIMS

1. A coated steel wire (10) having a bright looking surface,
said steel wire (10) having a steel core (12),
said steel core (12) being covered with an intermediate coating layer (14), and
immediately thereupon with a polymer, said polymer being a polyester, said polyester
being transparent and being colored.
2. A steel wire according to claim 1, said polymer comprising a transparent coloring agent.
3. A steel wire according to claim 1,
wherein said polymer is a thermoplastic polyester selected from the group consisting of
polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate and polyethylene naphthenate.
4. A steel wire according to claim 3,
wherein said thermoplastic polyester is polyethylene terephthalate.
5. A steel wire according to claim 1,
wherein said coloring agent is organic.
6. A steel wire according to claim 1,
wherein said intermediate coating is a metallic coating such as a copper coating, a
copper alloy coating, a zinc coating, a zinc alloy coating, a nickel coating, a nickel alloy,
a tin coating or a tin alloy coating.
7. A steel wire according to claim 1,
wherein said intermediate coating is a coating such as a copper-tin sulfate coating or a
copper-sulfate coating.
8. A method of manufacturing a coated steel wire (10) having a bright looking colored
surface, said method comprising the following steps :
 - (a) providing a steel core (12) ;
 - (b) coating said steel core (12) with an intermediate coating layer (14) ;
 - (c) giving a degree of brightness to said intermediate coating (14) ;
 - (d) using a transparent thermoplastic polyester;

- (e) further coating said bright steel wire with said polyester (16).
9. A method according to claim 8,
wherein said coating with said intermediate coating layer is done by means of a hot dip operation.
10. A method according to claim 8,
said method further comprising the step of coloring said polymer.
11. A method according to claim 8,
wherein said giving of a degree of brightness to said intermediate coating is done by wet drawing the coated steel wire.
12. A method according to claim 8,
wherein said further coating with a polymer is done by an extrusion process.